

Increasing cybercrime in B'luru; experts explain common tips to survive

Over 12,000 cases reported in 2023, with a loss of Rs. 470 crore in the city

Sowmya Raju | NT
Bengaluru

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month, and it is a good time to remind ourselves of the most common types of cyber crimes in Bengaluru. Cybercrime is a growing problem in India, and Bengaluru is no exception. In the first nine months of 2023, there have been over 12,000 cases of cybercrime reported in Bengaluru, with a total loss of over Rs. 470 crore.

As technology advances, the types and number of cyber crimes have also increased in recent years. Cybersecurity experts have warned that the biggest challenge for citizens and experts alike is to stay up-to-date on the latest cyber-crime trends and avoid falling victim to these scams.

Talking about the latest trends in cyber crimes, Rupesh Mittal, the founder and director of Cyber Jagrithi and Safety Founda-



tion said, the most common crimes these days are Video call scams, Microloan and Loan frauds, Online gaming frauds.

Video call scams involve creating highly convincing fake audio and video content, which are being used

for fraud, social engineering, and disinformation campaigns. Microloan and Loan frauds involve criminals promising people lucrative business opportunities in exchange for upfront investment or using fraudulent loan apps to cheat peo-

COMMON MISTAKES

Karmendra Kohli explains the common mistakes that people make such as the use of weak passwords like using passwords that are easy to guess, such as your name, birthday, or common words, opening suspicious links and downloading documents, applications and software from suspicious or unknown links, not using two-factor authentication, not monitoring financial statements, sharing too much personal information online, disregarding mobile security and so on.



ple into paying them money. The CEO and Director of SecurEyes Karmendra Kohli shares that the most common types of cyber crimes are phishing, ransomware, data breaches, identity theft, online scams, financial fraud and so on.

Cautious online interactions

Karmendra Kohli explains, "Enhancing cybersecurity awareness is vital in our digitally interconnected world. Staying informed through reputable cybersecurity news sources keeps individuals updated about

the evolving landscape of cyber threats and best practices." It's crucial to educate children about online safety from a young age to ensure responsible internet use. Reporting suspicious activities to the appropriate authorities and organisations helps combat cybercrime effectively. He added that a multilayered security approach, including firewalls, antivirus software, strong passwords, and employee training, is essential for comprehensive protection. "Regular security assessments, practising good cyber hygiene, and maintaining data backups are proactive

steps in safeguarding data and systems," he said.

Rupesh Mittal shares tips on how to deal with when one has already been a victim of a cybercrime. He suggests the victim not to panic immediately. He said, "The fraudsters will try to make it look like you have only 3 seconds to respond, but you will have more time. Never panic in any situation." he also added that everyone should have "trust issues" when it comes to commuting with anyone online. Always be cautious with whom you talk to and do not reveal any personal information.



Expert: Buslanes must come with operational plan

Rithu David | NT
Bengaluru

Bengaluru faces numerous challenges in maintaining a healthy urban mobility system. One of the major issues in urban areas like Bengaluru is traffic congestion. The city's roads are often overcrowded, leading to delays and increased travel times for all vehicles, including buses.

To address this, creating dedicated bus lanes allows buses to have their own separate space on the road, ensuring a smoother flow of traffic and reducing congestion. In this regard, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMT) and a group of researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have designed a research-driven action plan aimed at improving the corporation's planning and operations.

The research findings covered topics related to the effectiveness of Bus Priority Lanes (BPLs) in Bengaluru and the stress experienced by drivers. The researchers also found that there was a 'significant improvement' in travel time after the introduction of BPLs.

Mobility experts emphasise that the idea of having 'designated bus lanes' on roads must come with a clear operational plan. Fac-

tors such as the number of buses on the roads and their frequency need to be taken into consideration.

"It is important to note that the effectiveness of designated bus lanes in controlling traffic and saving travel time depends on various factors, including a clear operational plan. The number of passengers per hour per direction has to be taken into account. An important benefit of bus lanes is that they can serve as emergency lanes, not only for buses but also for ambulances and fire services," says Prof. Ashish Verma, Convenor, IISc Sustainable Transportation (IST) Lab.

Additionally, he emphasises, "Buses have to ply more frequently on such designated lanes; only then will they serve the purpose of regulating traffic. However, if the frequencies of buses are just at a bare minimum, it will be of no use."

Unfortunately, despite the government's efforts to implement it in 2019 in certain areas, it was not effective.

Sathyavathi G, MD, BMT, says, "Presently, the BPL system is not working, although it was started in 2019. The BPL stretched from KR Puram to the factory. Initially, we had plans to create a few high-density corridors as BPLs. However, due to the metro construction work, it was halted."

Fatal BMT bus accident in Yeshwanthpur, third one in 10 days

NT Correspondent
Bengaluru

A tragic incident occurred in Bengaluru's Yeshwanthpur area on a Saturday morning, where a college student named Gangadhar, aged 21, lost his life. He was on his way to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to collect his internship certificate when a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMT) bus struck his two-wheeler from behind and ran over him. Despite wearing a helmet, it came off during the accident, resulting in a fatal head injury.

The Yeshwanthpur Traffic Police station has registered a case in connection with this unfortunate incident, and Gangadhar's family has been informed after his identity was established. This incident marks the third fatal accident involv-



ing BMT buses in the past 10 days in Bengaluru. Despite these tragedies, BMT has yet to issue a statement regarding the series of accidents involving their buses in the city. In earlier incidents, a civil engineer lost his life on October 5 when struck by a speeding BMT bus in Yalahanka, while on October 9, a 3-year-old boy tragically lost his life after a BMT bus hit him under the Hulimavu Traffic Police Station's jurisdiction. The bus driver involved in the recent incident is expected to be arrested soon as police continue their investigation.

CRIME FILES

Agarbatti factory catches fire in Vijayanagar, 8 vehicles damaged, several sustain minor injuries



NT Correspondent
Bengaluru

A fire broke out at an incense sticks (Agarbatti) factory near Pipeline Road Vijayanagar, Bengaluru on Saturday morning. No major injuries were reported from the incident after fire engines doused the flames as soon as the incident was reported.

However, eight vehicles were reportedly damaged in the fire.

According to the police from the Kempapura Agrahara Police Station limit,

the fire broke out around 9 am owing to a short circuit inside the agarbatti factory and the owner reportedly left some flammable chemicals inside that spilled further aggravating the fire.

The flames extended to the two-wheelers parked outside the factory, resulting in the damage and the police said the fire also resulted in chaos amongst neighbouring residents.

A resident near the factory shared his experience with News Trail explaining the screams and chaos in his neighbourhood. He said, "No one realised the

amount of flammable material inside the factory and I think they will have to close it down." He also added that he sustained minor injuries to his head and his vehicles were damaged as well. He also expressed his concern about having a high-risk factory very close to a residential area.

The police said fire engines were promptly dispatched to the scene, with firefighters to restrain the high flames. While they reported no casualties, some local residents have sustained minor injuries.



Several two-wheelers parked outside and near the factory were damaged

Man found hanging from a tree

Bengaluru, NT Bureau: In a shocking incident, a man was found hanging from a tree at a park near Rajarajeshwari Nagar Police Station limits in the city on Friday morning.

Speaking to News Trail, the jurisdictional police said that the deceased was identified as Muni, 45, a resident of Hejjala in Ramnagara Taluk.

According to the police, Muni was addicted to alcohol and often used to work as a labourer.

"The deceased arrived at the water treatment plant near Kengeri last night. He entered the Siddalinga Park and tied a rope around a tree and hanged himself to death," said a police officer.

On Friday morning, a few joggers were shocked to find a man hanging from a tree and alerted the police.

However the police said that the reason for his suicide was not ascertained. It was revealed that he had abandoned his wife and children and was living at a broken shed in Kengeri.

Youth performing wheeling held

NT Correspondent
Bengaluru

A complaint was registered under Bengaluru Traffic Police, against a young rider for reckless riding and performing wheeling on the Kadugodi flyover.

The City traffic police

tracked down the accused who was found wheeling on Kadugodi flyover based on the complaint filed by a witness on Friday, 10:45 am, in Whitefield Traffic Police Station limits.

The City Traffic police detained the vehicle and arrested the accused for further investigation.

Courtsentences 3years imprisonment for POCSO accused

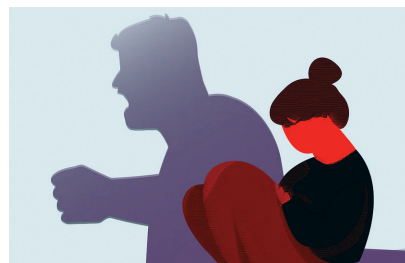
NT Correspondent
Bengaluru

A city court sentenced an accused for three years imprisonment after he was accused of inappropriately touching a minor near Malleswaram.

Following a complaint filed by the parents of a seven-year-old vic-

tim, a security guard, on 22 May 2022, was by the jurisdictional police under a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) case.

Following the investigation, the accused was presented before a special court in Bengaluru which sentenced him to three years imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 25000.



How fans in B'luru flock up for biggest game of ODI World Cup

Chandra Prabhu | NT
Bengaluru

A cricket match between India and Pakistan is always riveting, keeping people from both nations on the edge of their seats, hoping their team emerges victorious. This fierce rivalry has now reached the World Cup, taking place at the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad. In the city, on a hot Saturday afternoon, fans have flocked to sports bars, eager to witness their team's success. News Trail visited the Royal Challengers Cafe and spoke to a few fans, where emotions ran high.

Abimanyu, who stays in Sarjapur, traveled a long

way to witness the exciting cricket match. "I took a day off from work for Saturday's match. Let's hope the better team wins," he added. When asked about his preference for a standout performance, he pointed to Pakistan captain Babar Azam, saying, "I really like him, and it would be great to watch him play well."

Players with world-class credentials attract fans from across the globe. Chris Edginton from the United Kingdom is enchanted by Virat Kohli's incredible batting ability. "I've followed him for a very long time, and I would be elated if he reaches the 26,000-run mark," he said. Chris, who is on a two-day trip to Ben-



galuru, added that the atmosphere in the cafe and the stadium was incredible. "With this rousing atmosphere, I'd predict India will triumph over Pakistan," he added.

This fixture attracts people of all age groups,

from young kids witnessing their first cricket match to the oldest spectators, seeking to relive the excitement they experienced years ago. 81-year-old Patrick Wilson was one of them. Arriving with a walking stick, the retired social worker was excited to watch this fixture,

just as he did the first time. "It always feels like watching it for the first time," he added. Wilson, who has also experienced cricket at the Home of Cricket, emphasized the importance of sportsmanship in the

Gentleman's game. "The involvement of politics in cricket has not been beneficial to the sport. Teams like Pakistan need to be appreciated on sporting grounds," he said.

India in the match dismantled Pakistan for a



(Left) People watch the match at a mall on Mysore Road; OUT! Fans celebrate after a Pakistani wicket falls, at a private cafe in Bengaluru (right)

mere 191 runs. During the innings break, Vishnu, a fan, reminisced about the importance of the rivalry. "I still remember Javed Miandad's antics in the 1992 World Cup," he added. The 45-year-old techie recalled his memories of watching

India vs. Pakistan matches and mentioned that Saturday's win would be a significant one. "I would love for us to play Pakistan again in the semi-finals," he said.

The India vs. Pakistan rivalry in World Cup tournaments has always favoured India, with a 7-0 record. India will aim to make it eight in this match. Cricket fans in the city have taken time out of their busy schedules to witness the men in blue emerge victorious in this historic fixture, and their optimism fills the room. Sixes and fours, combined with incredible bowling, always get fans erupting from their seats in cheer, as if it were their last chance to do so.